FACT SHEET

EPA Region 7

Riverfront Site
New Haven, Missouri July 2000

Site Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 continues to investigate the tetracholorethylene (PCE) contamination at the Riverfront Site. A number of industries which were known to have used solvents operated on the Riverfront Site, and the contamination may have resulted from these operations. EPA's investigation is being done to identify the source of the PCE contamination.

Site Update

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is EPA's contractor for the ground water investigation. Earlier this year, USGS installed three deep ground water monitoring wells in New Haven, one of which is located on city property immediately south of the Riverfront site. A faucet adjacent to this well and the city dog pound has been used by USGS to rinse drilling tools. This faucet is referred to as the dog pen faucet.

In early May 2000 USGS used water from the dog pen faucet to rinse a pump. This rinse water was sampled and results indicated high levels of PCE and trichloroethylene (TCE). Since PCE had not been detected previously, it was assumed that the PCE was caused by inadequate decontamination of the sample.

USGS then collected a sample directly from the dog pen faucet. A scan of this sample indicated the presence of PCE and TCE. EPA was notified and additional samples were taken. The sampling results indicated PCE in the service line at 2,200 parts per billion (ug/L). The service line runs from the faucet to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDOC) boat access and public restroom. This appears to indicate that this service line may be in contact with highly contaminated soils and PCE is bleeding into the line.

However, a sample from the drinking water fountain in the Water Department shed indicated no PCE. This is the second tap "upstream" of the MDOC service line. In addition, City wells No. 3 and 4 have been sampled. Preliminary field results indicate no contamination; laboratory results are pending.

The Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PCE is 5 ug/L. The MCL is the maximum level of certain contaminants permitted in drinking water supplied by a public water system as set by EPA under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Next Steps

Due to the high levels of PCE contamination in this line, EPA will conduct a time-critical removal action. This removal action will eliminate immediate risks to the community. The removal action is scheduled to begin in early July and is expected to be completed in several weeks.

The removal action will allow for the removal and replacement of about 450 feet of a polyethylene water supply line which is located in the contaminated soil. The line will be removed and replaced with piping material and gaskets that are impermeable to volatile organic compounds (VOCs), including PCE. Upon completion of the water line replacement, the system will be re-sampled for VOCs.

Rerouting/replacing the line will impact a city street and repairs will be required to return the street back to its original condition. The contaminated soils in this area will be excavated and disposed of off-site.

Additional Information

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

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